Crow's loan to Kelly not enough to beat Ocheltree

By Tim Hammon
Signal Staff Writer

BAKERSFIELD — Brian Kelly's chances of keeping his points lead in the NASCAR Late Model division looked bleak Saturday night at Saugus Speedway.

Kelly blew the engine in his Olds assembly during the trophy dash before 2,500 fans and possibly any chance of racing in the main event.

Enter Rick Crow.

The Canyon Country resident gave his car to Kelly so he could race in the feature race and hopefully maintain his points lead.

"He's number one in the points race and I have a car that can win the main event," Crow said. "I missed the first eight and last week. I can't be the cheap, so for him to be cheap."

Despite Crow's generosity, the checkered flag was not in Kelly's future. Rick Ocheltree won the 40-lap feature race, leading from start to finish.

"It's a big win for us," said Ocheltree, who won his first feature of the year. "We really needed to win one like this."

Kelly's chances at winning all but ended in lap 36 when Craig Raymond and Derek Cronridge collided with the Arleta resident on the back straightaway.

"It's a hot car. I love didn't want to scratch it," Kelly said. "After I saw cars dropping out, I just wanted to finish the race.

"Rick Crow saved us big. It's good. It's fun. And it did 40 laps. That's all I needed. That has saved my life.

Dean Crow decided to let Kelly drive his car some adjustments had to be made.

"I'm honored to the car and he has a bigger belly than I do," Crow said.

As a result, Kelly removed the dash board and lowered the steering column.

"He told me to brag so I can fit in it. I can race it," Kelly said.

In a battle for second place in lap 22, Cronridge and Raymond tangled through turns two and three. Both drivers suffered flat tires and had to pit to replace them.

Ocheltree maintained his early lead.

In the Grand Am Modified feature race, Dave Blankenship led the all 40 laps en route to victory.

Blankenship entered the night's races third in points, 34 behind first place Dave Filippi.

Filippi finished second in main 18th a 24 points back Blankenship.

Brian Hone won the 12-lap Pure Stock's feature race. Marlon Dale crashed into the race three cars in lap one and left the race.

Crow won the Late Model trophy dash. Blankenship won the Grand Am Modified version, and Jon Rasmus won the Pure Stock trophy dash.

Canyon Country resident John Watkinson suffered engine problems during warm-up laps prior to the Grand Am Modified trophy dash and withdrew from the race.

Associated Press

Timber Country (left) leads Kentucky Derby winner Thunder Gulch (right) and the rest of the Preakness field on the way to winning the race.

Horse

Continued from page C1

They raced that way down the backstretch and then Dwy sent Timber Country outside on the final turn as Oliver's Twist, ridden by Alberto Delgado, moved toward the rail.

Oliver's Twist, Timber Country and Thunder Gulch then passed the leaders in front of them in the stretch drive, with Timber Country getting in front in midstretch and having enough to hold off Oliver's Twist.

Oliver's Twist was bidding to become the first Maryland-bred to win the Preakness since Deputed Testimony came off Bonifacio's farm on race day to win in 1963.

Completing the order of finish after Star Standard was Macke, Talkin Man, Cee Cheeky, Mystery Storm, Tejano Run, Pete Brast and Issue, Again, a Texas-bred who made a 2,000-mile van trip to Pimlico, arriving May 12, finished 11 lengths behind Timber Country.

Issue, who had finished seventh in his previous start at Ratsena Park, delayed the start when he reared up in the gate in the No. 1 post position. Jockey Ricky Frazier, son of trainer Roy Frazier, got off the horse briefly and then remounted.

"Do they run on here on Sunday?" the delighted Lukas said, referring to his four Pimlico stakes victories in three days. "We're thrilled to death."

Lukas also had to be pleased with the effort of Thunder Gulch, who had been ignored before the Derby and paid a winning mutuel of $71.

"My colt by no means disappointed himself," jockey Gary Stevens said of Thunder Gulch. "He's been consistent all year long. He comes out of the Derby, runs big today and just gets beat for second. I have a lot of respect for him. He's a great."

Timber Country is owned by W.T. Young, who also co-owned Tabasco Cat. Robert and Beverly Lewis and Graham Beck.

It was also the fourth Preakness victory for Lukas, who was appearing in the race for the 14th time with his 17th and 18th starters.

Athletes play numbers game

By Hal Bock
AP Sports Writer

Call it the number mumbo, a digital dance of superstition that makes athletes demand their own personal identification on their uniforms.

One day Michael Jordan is No. 45, the next day he's No. 23. Tomorrow? Who knows?

Don't worry. Jordan promised the NBA and the sporting goods industry of America that there will be no more jersey juggling. He's 23 for good, now.

He wasn't always so set right, though. For the 1984 and 1992 Olympics, Jordan wore No. 9. And on Feb. 14, 1990, when his No. 23 jersey was stolen, he had to wear No. 12 for a game against Orlando. He merely scored 49 points during the game.

Still, he says, he's most comfortable with No. 23.

For the numerologists in the audience, Jordan explained his reasoning.

"If it's a mental confidence, then it's a mental confidence," he said. "I'm going to stick with it until I finish playing basketball. That's me. Twenty-three is me."

And 33 was Larry Bird. Or was it Kareem Abdul-Jabbar?

And 32 was Magic Johnson. Or was it Bill Walton?

Numbers are like private property, so identifiable with particular players that they wouldn't think of going anywhere without the digits near and dear to them.

There was a simpler time in sports when jerseys were issued on a first-come, first-served basis, largely dependent on what was available. If a new player showed up and needed a nine 46 jersey, he was issued a nine 46 and the number on the back was immaterial.

That was when teams didn't realize the need for mental health professionals to manage the delicate psyches of their athletes.

Now numbers are important commodities, so much so that players will pay for their favorites. When Rickey Henderson surfaced in Toronto a couple of years ago, he found infielder Turner Ward equipped with his favorite number, 24. In the entrepreneurial spirit of the modern athlete, Henderson figured everything had a price and purchased No. 24 from Ward. It cost $25,000, tip money for somebody who is making millions.

Rick Barry also loved No. 24 and wore it everywhere he went in a vagabond basketball career. When he arrived in Houston, he found No. 24 already occupied by the rather imposing Moses Malone, who was not interested in changing. Barry solved the dilemma by wearing No. 2 for home games and No. 4 on the road, 4 twice for both Bill Dickey and Yogi Berra.

When flamboyant rookie Deion Sanders showed up in spring training with the Yankees in 1989, he advised equipment manager Nick Priore that he'd like a low number, perhaps 3 or 4. Priore mentioned a couple of guys named Rath and Gehrig, and Sanders settled for something less dramatic.

Jim Piersall wore No. 37 throughout a topsy-turvy baseball career. When he turned up with the sidelined mulnick New York Mets, he had a problem. No. 37 belonged to the manager, Casey Stengel.

Piersall had a unique solution. He asked for No. 3736, Stengel vetoed that idea, saying, "There's only room for one clown on this team." Reluctantly, Piersall took No. 36 and was wearing it when he celebrated his 1000th home run by running around the bases backward.

Pitcher Roger Craig, saddled by that terrible Mets team, was bagged down in a record-tying, 18-game losing streak during the summer of 1963 when he dramatically discarded his No. 36 and donned No. 13, swearing he'll wear that dreaded digit until he wins a game. In his next start, Jim Hickman hit a grand slam homer in the bottom of the ninth inning and Craig earned a winner.

Perhaps the most memorable devotee of No. 13 was Ralph Branca, who welcomed it when he pitched for the old Brooklyn Dodgers because there were 13 children in his family. Then Branca was victimized by Bobby Thomson's pennant-winning home run on Oct. 3, 1951, and the front office decided there was a mystical connection.

"They said Oct. 3 was the 10th month and third day and that added up to 13," Branca said.

Track

Continued from page C1

After he decided to skip the 3,200, Simkins was feeling better about the 1,600.

"I was really frustrated," he said. "I didn't expect that to happen. I expected to be in control. I wanted a title or maybe two titles. That's OK. Everyone has an off day.

"I had a CIF championship my junior year, so I was a little disappointed in the back of my mind, but that will fix itself. If I win a state title, then a CIF title, who cares?"

Simkins said that even if he had run the 3,200 Saturday, he would have dropped it in the Masters meet to concentrate on the 1,600.

James was almost glad to see her season end. This was the first year she ran the 400, and she broke the school record numerous times.

"It seems like such has gone on for three years, straight," James said. "I got fifth and I was the fifth-fastest coming in. I'm happy with that. Hike well on heat. I had trouble with the blocks and didn't get a position start and then in the starter) must have waited five seconds (before firing the gun). I almost false-started."

James didn't think she was anywhere near qualifying immediately after the race, but, like in the Division I race, she finished where she qualified, 10th overall.

Lukas also had to be pleased with the effort of Thunder Gulch, who had been ignored before the Derby and paid a winning mutuel of $71.

"My colt by no means disappointed himself," jockey Gary Stevens said of Thunder Gulch. "He's been consistent all year long. He comes out of the Derby, runs big today and just gets beat for second. I have a lot of respect for him. He's a great."

Timber Country is owned by W.T. Young, who also co-owned Tabasco Cat. Robert and Beverly Lewis and Graham Beck.

It was also the fourth Preakness victory for Lukas, who was appearing in the race for the 14th time with his 17th and 18th starters.

COC's Overlock takes 5th in State JC 1,500

BAKERSFIELD — Jennifer Overlock broke the school record in the 1,500 meters by more than nine seconds to headline the performance of the College of the Canyons track team in the State Championships Saturday at Bakersfield College.

Overlock led the first two laps before falling back in the third. She then kicked her way to a fifth-place finish in a personal-best 4 minutes, 47.92 seconds.

Ramon Serrano fared in the steeplechase and finished third in 9:27.4. Melissa Dunkerley was 10th in the triple jump with a leap of 34 feet, 11 inches, and Tish Isen was 10th in the javelin with a throw of 106-3.

In Saturday's edition, statistics and quotes were incorrectly attributed to Saugus softball player Nicole Giacalone. Nicole Giordano tripled and was quoted.

JOIN TRANSPORT
SCVNET
(805) 257-5717
SIGNUP
W/BILL ACCOUNT
LOCAL DIALUP
AN INTERNET ACCESS COMPANY

CMC Properties
255-6483
Cristina Mallarino
BROKER

NOW IN SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
GOLDEN WEST K-9
24 Hour Security Services
Golden West K-9 has been providing quality security services since 1969. Currently we are the largest private patrol company in San Fernando Valley.
We serve a long list of commercial, home owner associations and 147 others security companies. Our outstanding commitment will help you complete your security needs by top client need.
AVAILABLE SERVICES
• Patrol
• Sentry (armed/unarmed)
• On Call
• HOA Parking Enforcement
• Alarm Response
FOR INFORMATION OR BROCHURE CALL
805-259-7554 or 818-897-5965
Los Angeles • Ventura • Kern

BOB'S CLASSY LADY
California's Finest All Adult Gentlemen's Club
THE ORIGINAL HOME OF THE ADULT FILM STARS
LIVE ON STAGE
Tonight: Mills
WEDNESDAY:
NEXT WEEK: BRITTANY O'CONNELL
Expires 5-23-92
14828 Raymer St., Van Nuys
(818) 787-2827
Pick up your discount coupon for Video Liquidators at Bob's Classy Lady

FREE DVC REMOVAL
1st Annual BOAT CENTER
ONE WEEKEND ONLY
May 29, 30 & 31st
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
PRE-MEMORIAL DAY BOAT SALE
All Boats In Stock Ready For Delivery By Memorial Day Weekend!!
CROWNLINE
FREE SAFETY PACKAGE
SPECIAL FACTORY INCENTIVES!
HUGE SAVINGS ON PRE-OWNED STOCK
FACTORY DIRECT SAVINGS!
SPECIAL WEEKEND FINANCING RATES (O.A.C.)
"Instant Fun... Just Add Water"
197 BRXL/SC 1995
$14,995
28510 Sand Canyon Rd., Canyon Country
251-1111